

# Hartford Elementary News

## Math/Science Night



Thanks to the HS Mathletes for helping our Math/Science Night to be another success! Families were able to travel from booth to booth to try out the games and experiments.



### April Events:

- Monday, April 1st - No School
- Tuesday, April 2nd - Bookmobile/Tyler Tuesday
- Tuesday, April 2 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm HS Library
- Monday, April 8 - School Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm
- Thursday, April 11th - Spring Concert for Hartford Elementary @ the HS Becker Center Gym/Silent Pie Auction for the PTA - 7:00 pm
- Friday, April 19 - Morning with Moms 7:15 - 8:30 am/Declam PM - grades 1 & 2
- Friday, April 19 - Declam for grades 1 & 2 in the afternoon.
- Tuesday, April 23 - Bookmobile
- Friday, April 26 - Trojan Buck Store
- Saturday, April 27 - Bike Rodeo @ Hartford Elementary

### Coming in MAY:

- Thursday, May 2 - 2nd grade field trip
- Friday, May 3 - Grandparents Afternoon 1:00 - 3:30 (JK in the AM)
- Monday, May 6 - 2nd grade transition visit to Humboldt
- Tuesday, May 7 - All students take the City of Hartford Tour
- Wednesday, May 8 - Track & Field Day/ Retirement Parties 4-6 @ HS
- Friday, May 10 - 1st Grade Field Trip
- Tuesday, May 14 - Kindergarten Field Trip/Bookmobile Pick Up Only
- Wednesday, May 15 - JK Field Trip
- Thursday, May 16 - Last Day for Students 1:30 Dismissal Time

## THE MARCH BIRTHDAY BASH

The March Birthday Bash was held on Wednesday, March 6th. Mrs. Tyler read the book, Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss. Each child received a pencil, a birthday card, a Trojan Buck, and a fruit snack. Happy birthday to all the March birthdays!



### First Grade March Birthdays

Back Row: Ryenn (3-24), Abby (3-21), Alexa (3-10), Marissa (3-16), Drew (3-24), and Clara (3-15)

Front Row: Donovan (3-7), Auston (3-30), and Landen (3-2)



### Kindergarten March Birthdays

Back Row: Jeremiah (3-17), Aiden (3-15), Creighton (3-15), and Patrick (3-28)

Front Row: Presley (3-27), Tracy (3-21), and Cambree (3-7)



### Second Grade March Birthdays

Back Row: Alison (3-21), Elizabeth (3-28), Aidan (3-31), Shane (3-6), Dylan (3-25), and Daniel (3-7)

Front Row: Kaylee (3-27) and Nicholas (3-19)

## TYLER TUESDAY

Tuesday, April 2nd

For all April Birthdays!

Call Pam @ 528-3215 to register!





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# Hartford Elementary Jump Rope for Heart American Heart Association

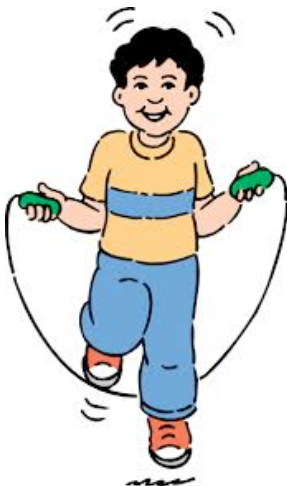
The Hartford Elementary PE program will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart this year on April 4 and 5. We are raising awareness and money for the American Heart Association. Jump Rope for Heart teaches kids the importance of developing heart-healthy habits and that being physically active can be fun. It also shows them that raising funds to support cardiovascular research and education helps save lives in their community. Heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer so it is important we increase students' knowledge of how their hearts work and the best way to take care of them.

The event will take place during regular PE classes. The collection envelopes went home on March 19 or March 20. They are due back by April 4 and 5. This is the fourth year in a row Hartford Elementary has had an event. Each event has been a huge success. The first year we raised over \$4,100, the second year over \$4,700, the third year over \$8,000, and last year we raised over \$9,000. These amounts are awesome, but the **biggest thing is that we are informing people about heart disease.**

I have some individual incentives that students can work toward. For any student that raises over \$50, he/she can hit Mr. Matthies with one whip cream pie, and any student that raises over \$100 will get to hit Mr. Matthies with two whip cream pies. These rewards will happen during Track/Field Day. Also, if the grand total is over \$10,000, Mr. Matthies will shave his head. The student that raises the most money in his/her grade level will get to go to lunch with Mr. Matthies at Subway. Any child that raises over \$200 will also get the Subway lunch with Mr. Matthies.

In April we will be doing our final fitness testing. The testing includes endurance run, pull ups, shuttle run, sit ups, and flexibility. Hartford Elementary Track/Field Day will be held at the high school track on May 8 in the afternoon (May 9 is the rain date).

Any questions please contact Mr. Matthies  
[barry.matthies@k12.sd.us](mailto:barry.matthies@k12.sd.us)





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### *Nurse's Notes by Rachel Sebr, School Nurse*

It is amazing the effect stress can have on our bodies, especially those of our little ones. Whether a child has a stomachache or they are simply tired from lack of sleep, I see kids everyday with ailments that can be attributed to stress. Some of us may reminisce on how “easy” things were as a child - no bills or bosses asking us to work late. However, we may be concentrating so hard on our own stressors that we neglect to address our children's, or we may even fail to recognize that our words or actions may actually be *adding* stress to their lives.

While it's not always easy to recognize when kids are stressed out, short-term behavioral changes such as mood swings, acting out, changes in sleep patterns, or bedwetting can be indications. Some kids experience physical effects, including stomachaches and headaches. Others have trouble concentrating or completing schoolwork. Still others become withdrawn or spend a lot of time alone.

Younger children may pick up new habits like thumb sucking, hair twirling, or nose picking. Older kids may begin to lie, bully, or defy authority. A child who is stressed may also have nightmares, difficulty leaving you, overreactions to minor problems, and drastic changes in academic performance.

How can you help kids cope with stress? Proper rest and good nutrition can boost coping skills, as can good parenting. Make time for your kids each day. Whether they need to talk or just be in the same room with you, make yourself available. Don't try to make them talk, even if you know what they're worried about. Sometimes kids just feel better when you spend time with them on fun activities.

Even as kids get older, quality time is important. It's really hard for some people to come home after work, get down on the floor, and play with their kids or just talk to them about their day, especially if they've had a stressful day themselves. But expressing interest shows that they're important to you.

Help your child cope with stress by talking about what may be causing it. Together, you can come up with a few solutions like cutting back on after-school activities, spending more time talking with parents, developing an exercise regimen, or keeping a journal.

You can also help by anticipating stressful situations and preparing kids for them. For example, let your child know ahead of time that a doctor's appointment is coming up and talk about what will happen there. Tailor the information to your child's age, younger kids won't need as much advance preparation or details as older kids or teens.

Remember that some level of stress is normal. Let your kids know that it's all right to feel angry, scared, lonely, or anxious and that other people share those feelings. Reassurance is important, so remind them you're confident they can handle the situation. Also, keep in mind, we have wonderful support staff at West Central that are always willing to help if needed.

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# PTA NEWS

## **Upcoming Events**

- PTA meeting Tuesday, April 2nd @ 7:00 pm at HS Library.

## **Special Fundraising Projects for 2012-2013**

1. Reduce school supply list by providing **ALL** notebooks and folders for the 2013-2014 school year.
2. Provide shin guards and soccer nets for the Humboldt and Hartford Elementary play grounds.

PTA annual membership is \$5.00. This year, members who activate their card will receive \$10.00 off a \$50.00 purchase at Office Max! Drop off your membership dues - along with a sheet of paper with your name, address, phone number, email address, and employer - at the school office or with your school's PTA representative. Please feel free to email us at: [ptawestcentral@gmail.com](mailto:ptawestcentral@gmail.com) for any suggestions or comments or visit our website at <http://facebook.com/groups/PTAWestCentral>. We would love to hear from you!



## Author Visits 2nd Grade

Authors David Jal and Laura Jacobs (Mr. Jacob's sister-in-law) came to 2nd grade to discuss their book, "David's Journey - The Story of David Jal, One of the Lost Boys of Sudan". Mr. Jal read to the students and shared his life altering experience as well as hosted a question and answer session regarding his struggle to survive the long civil war in South Sudan.

Mr. Jal, now a Sioux Falls probation officer, speaks to groups about these amazing "Lost Boys of the Sudan" while raising money for the Khor Wakow School Project he holds so dear to his heart. He is the driving force behind the mission to bring books and education to the children of the Sudan.

To learn more about the Khor Wakow school project, please visit <http://www.khorwakowschoolproject.org>

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## Field Trips



### Thursday, May 2nd - 2nd Grade Field Trip

AM - Army National Guard/McDonald's

PM - Butterfly House/Outdoor Campus

### Tuesday, March 7th - All students tour the City of Hartford

### Friday, May 10th - 1st Grade Field Trip

Children's Museum in Brookings

### Tuesday, May 14th - Kindergarten Field Trip

AM Sertoma Park

PM Great Plains Zoo

### Wednesday, May 15th - Junior Kindergarten Field Trip

AM Butterfly House

## Pictures from Read Across America Day





# Retirements

We have a number of retirements this year from West Central. Please join us on Wednesday, May 8th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the HS Commons Area to have a piece of cake and thank the following educators for their years at West Central:

Eileen Cypher, 1st Grade Humboldt  
Evie Patterson, 3rd Grade Humboldt  
Roberta Jacobs, 3rd Grade Humboldt  
Regina Lebeda, 4th Grade Humboldt  
Dianna Tyler, Hartford Elementary  
Mary Lowry, Title I/Reading Recovery, Hartford  
Connie Lueth, Title I Hartford/Humboldt  
Beth Prostrollo, Librarian EA - MS/HS  
Sherry Knutson, HS English

*Thank  
You*

# Walking Bus Routes

by Mrs. Tyler

I will begin the walking bus routes the week of **April 2nd**. I will try to follow the following schedule, but there are times that I have meetings that I can't avoid. If I am not at the stop and the in-town bus comes, please have your kids ride the bus.

Tuesdays - Imagination Station Route  
- 7:50 pick up

Thursdays - Emma Circle/South of School Route 7:45 pick up

Fridays - Christ Lutheran Route -  
7:35 pick up



## Hartford Elementary Spring Concert

Thursday, April 11th

High School Becker Center (older HS Gym)

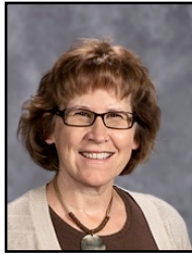
7:00 pm

Please have kids there by 6:45 in auditorium - keep them with you until that time if you are there before 6:45.

K-2 students wear nice spring clothes

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## REFLECTIONS...BY MRS. TYLER, PRINCIPAL



I had a hard time writing the notice about the retirement parties coming up in May...and not just because I'm a part of the celebration. My mind took me back to those teachers who are retiring, each one who touched my life and my career in some way.

Eileen Cypher was the 1st grade teacher to my two girls. She was the one who recognized that my youngest couldn't hear. She told me that she would stand behind her and talk and Beth wouldn't know she was there. So after a trip to the doctor and a major surgery; Beth has some hearing loss, but can hear because Mrs. Cypher noticed. My girls began their love for a good book with Mrs. Cypher. I read Harry Potter and all that followed on her recommendation and she helped me every year by ordering and organizing all the books for the Trojan Reading Bowl. I couldn't have done it without her.

All of my three kids had Mrs. Patterson. We attended the Laura Ingalls Wilder pageant in Desmet, SD for many summers after my son, Brad, was in third grade because of her love of the Wilder books that was passed on to my children. The field trip there that Brad took made the books that Mrs. Patterson read to the whole class come alive. My kids have all kept promises they made to Mrs. Patterson in her class because of their respect and love for her.

My children were never in Mrs. Jacob's class, but her science and class pets were famous. That sense of learning from a class pet and a teacher who provides this for kids is very valuable. I did have Mrs. Jacob's mom as one of my 8th grade math teachers (Mrs. Alta Marie Lueth) and I know teaching was in her blood.

Regina was my mentor. She came to West Central as a principal at Humboldt Elementary when I was teaching in the junior high. She took some years off when her kids were small, and went back as a teacher. She did spend one year in my position as Hartford Elementary Principal/Curriculum Director, but her love for the classroom took her back to teaching. Following Regina was not easy. She was out and about more. She spent time in the classrooms and truly loved being a principal. I learned from her and tried to mirror much of what she did.

Connie Lueth was a first grade teacher when I began this position. She really knows reading and what children need. I was always amazed at how high her kids scored on reading screeners and DRA levels. When she asked to move to Title I and out of the classroom, it was a perfect fit for her skills in reading. Some things you just can't learn from a book. It's a gift.

Mary Lowry is much the same. She is a trained reading recovery teacher and works not only with the students, but with the parents and the teachers so the kids can be successful with their newly learned reading skills. I've always appreciated her insight during team meetings when we were trying to unlock reasons why a child struggles to read.

When I was a teacher in the middle school, Beth Probstollo taught art along with being an Educational Assistant (EA). I'm not sure if most know this, but an EA gets paid a lot less than a teacher. Back a few years, before No Child Left Behind, we used her as an art exploratory teacher and Melissa (my middle daughter) thrived during those years in her class. Melissa bought herself a pottery wheel with one of her first pay checks because of the love of creation that came through Mrs. Probstollo. While Mrs. Probstollo doesn't hold the teaching degree, she is a teacher in the true sense of the word.

My children were also all fortunate to have Sherry Knutson as their 9th grade English teacher. Brad also worked on her journalism crew and thrived in the "let's get this done" atmosphere of the school paper. You couldn't get Brad to do much extra work in an English class, but he was there for journalism and I know it had a lot to do with Mrs. Knutson and her way with kids.

West Central has always prided themselves on their academic success and these eight teachers are eight reasons why. We will miss you all!

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## Aren't You Glad I Don't Believe That? by Love & Logic

I recently received the following email from my neighbor:

Jim,  
Thanks so much for my new favorite line, *"Aren't you glad I don't believe that?"* It is brilliant! It was an instant re-direct this morning.  
Jen

Jen is not the only Love and Logic parent who has discovered this handy Love and Logic One-Liner. It's especially effective when followed by a quick hug and a walk away. (Don't stick around for a response.)

You might want to run an experiment at one of those times when you feel at a loss for words. *"Aren't you glad I don't believe that?"* serves as a quick and loving reply to lots of childhood favorite retorts, including, but not limited to:

"I can't do that."  
"I'm just stupid."  
"I guess it's always my fault."  
"I'm not going to be your friend anymore."  
"Nobody likes me."  
"It's too hard."  
"I'm never going to..."  
"You like her/him better than me."  
"I hate you!"

Share this with your friends. They will probably thank you for it just as Jen thanked us.

## Declam

Each year I hear parents asking, "What is Declam?" I know spell check on my computer doesn't even recognize it as a word! This is one history I don't know the origin, but Declam is public speaking in the early grades. Students memorize a poem and say it in front of parents, classmates, and judges. I feel this is a valuable skill to develop in the early grades to help students throughout life. Below is the schedule for Friday, April 19th. Parents are welcome to attend.

1:00 - 1:30: 2C & 2D

1:30 - 2:00 2B & 2A

2:00 - 2:30 1A & 1C

2:30 - 3:00 1B & 1D

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Thank You for the Ashley Donations!

Here is the break down for your giving for Ashley Goldhammer. I'm happy to report that she is now out of intensive care and in a regular room. You can check her progress @ <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ashleygoldhammer>

EC - \$69.00  
JK - \$72.73  
KA - \$166.21  
KB - \$185.80  
KC - \$171.63  
KD - \$603.74  
1A - \$556.09  
1B - \$273.73  
1C - \$504.61  
1D - \$210.94  
2A - \$197.93  
2B - \$204.70  
2C - \$200.11  
2D - \$179.21  
Office Staff - \$106.20  
Total - \$3702.63

Thank You All!!



### Box Tops for Education

Just clip, put in a baggie and return to school! There is also a drop box at Sunshine.



### Save Five for Schools

Just wash these milk and juice lids and send to school in a baggie (or Sunshine). Watch for store specials! We need the WHOLE lid!



### Labels for Education

This is not just Campbells Soup Labels anymore! There are many products that qualify. Check it out at [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) You can send labels to school with your child or drop in box @ Sunshine.

### Cell Phones/Ink Cartridges

You can drop off old cell phones or ink cartridges and we can recycle and get money back. There is a box inside our front door.